



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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TWO GLENDALE MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO THEFT OF HOLIDAY MAIL

PHOENIX - John Edward Bauer, 38, and Nathaniel Nathan Gatlin, 34, both of Glendale, Ariz., pleaded guilty here in federal district court to Theft of U.S. Mail. The thefts of two large mail collection boxes, bolted to the ground in front of U.S. Post Offices in Scottsdale and Surprise, Ariz., occurred in late December 2005. The two were charged with theft of the contents of those mail boxes which included envelopes and packages containing cash, gift cards, checks and Christmas items that had been mailed to over 1100 people.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton stated "I applaud the speedy resolution in this case, especially the dedication of the two Postal Inspection Operations Technicians who sorted through 2500 pieces of mail and identified and contacted over 360 victims in just three weeks."

"Postal Inspectors acted swiftly to resolve this case and recovered much of the stolen mail, thus bringing Bauer and Gatlin to justice. This is a fine example of the efforts made by Postal Inspectors to secure the nation's mail system," said Los Angeles Division Inspector in Charge Oscar Villanueva.

Both defendants remain in federal custody pending sentencing. Bauer pleaded guilty on April 12, 2006; his sentencing is set before U.S. District Judge Neil V. Wake on July 5, 2006. Gatlin pleaded guilty on May 3, 2006; his sentencing is set before Judge Wake on July 17, 2006.

A conviction for mail theft carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence Judge Wake will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which indicate appropriate sentencing ranges based upon the crime and the defendants' backgrounds. Judge Wake, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Postal Inspectors from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Glendale Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-056-14- PHX-NVW
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